



Astraea LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

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Fact Sheet

The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice is the only philanthropic organization working exclusively to advance LGBTQI rights around the globe. We support hundreds of brilliant and brave grantee partners in the U.S. and internationally who challenge oppression and seed social change. We work for racial, economic, social, and gender justice, because we all deserve to live our lives freely, without fear, with profound dignity.

A Leader in Progressive Grantmaking

The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice is the top funder in number of grants to LGBTQI organizations in the Global South and East.ⁱ

The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice is number nine in the top ten funders in amount of funding to LGBTQI organizations in the Global South and East, and the only public foundation on the top ten list.ⁱⁱ

Internationally, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice has granted \$8.1 million in 900 grants to 338 organizations in 81 countries.

In the U.S., the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice has granted over \$10 million in more than 2,000 grants to over 750 organizations in 43 states.

Four Areas for Advancing Justice

Grantmaking

We help ensure the safety, security, and visibility of LGBTQI people by expanding resources to individuals and organizations working to address inequalities across the globe.

Philanthropic Advocacy

We leverage relationships amongst individual and organizational donors and grantee partners to educate on structural funding gaps for LGBTQI human rights and social change initiatives.

Capacity Building & Leadership Development

We work with our grantee partners to build their capacity and strategic advocacy skills. We foster collaborations and knowledge sharing so they can connect.

Media & Communications

We develop print and online media and communications strategies to further progressive perspectives at the intersections of racial, economic, social, and gender justice.

Four Areas of Progressive Practice

Human Rights

Changing laws. Political education. Monitoring police and government practices. This is the work Astraea grantee partners around the globe do to ensure Sexual Orientation and Gender

Identity (SOGI) human rights protections.

Movement & Network Building

An important part of our work is to develop and foster alliances and relationships at the local, regional, and national levels. These interconnections are the groundwork for sustainable global movements and widespread social change, prioritizing the needs of LGBTQI communities around the world.

Arts & Cultural Advocacy

We support activist artists, writers, poets, cultural change agents, and arts organizations who speak out for justice. We value their power to transform society. They motivate LGBTQI communities to continue even in the face of incredible odds.

Mobile-Global

We keep grantee partners connected and resources flowing around the globe. We build regional and cross-regional relationships that break isolation, and help grantee partners develop shared agendas. We respond immediately to international emergencies, providing resources in the most urgent situations.

How We Began

Astraea is a multi-gendered, multiracial, multi-identity organization that grew from a lesbian feminist vision. Honoring our legacy, we are uncompromising in our vision of rights for all, continuing to uphold strong values such as belief in self-determination, community empowerment, movement building, and building across issues and generations.

Astraea was founded in 1977 by a small group of multi-racial, multi-class women in order to address the lack of funding for women-specifically lesbians and women of color. They believed that even the smallest of gestures, when combined, could create, nurture and strengthen significant social change. And they were right.

The first grantmaker to hundreds of organizations, Astraea plays a catalytic role for LGBTQI organizations across the globe. By seeding nascent ideas, groups, and movements, these initial grants have grown into long-term partnerships and coalitions.

J. Bob Alotta, Executive Director

J. Bob Alotta is a lifelong activist and accomplished filmmaker with a long track record of expanding organizational capacity through skillful management and fundraising. Bob served for four years as the Board Chair of FIERCE, a longtime Astraea grantee partner and effective policy advocate working to build the leadership and power of LGBTQ youth of color. On behalf of the FIERCE Board of Directors, Bob was awarded the Stonewall Foundation's 2009 Alan Morrow Prize for Excellence in Board Leadership. Bob also served for six years as a grant reviewer for the Community Fellowship Program at the Open Society Foundations. She has consulted for Swarthmore College, Williams College, WITNESS, and the Prison Moratorium Project.

Prior to joining Astraea, Bob was Director of Digital Media and Content at Zeitbyte Digital

Media. There, she grew the firm’s staff ten-fold as the principal executive responsible for technical, financial and staffing infrastructures. Earlier in her career, Bob was the Director of Digital Technology for Film at Columbia University’s School of the Arts. During her tenure, she expanded the program; secured multi-million dollar gifts; and taught numerous graduate and undergraduate workshops in post-production. Bob has also taught at Williams College and at various youth services agencies throughout NYC.

Throughout her career as a filmmaker, Bob has used media to elevate the lived experiences of LGBTQI communities. Bob’s documentary and narrative films have aired on Democracy Now, GRITtv, and PBS and have screened at festivals in the United States, Canada, Europe and the Middle East.

Contact Astraea

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ⁱ “LGBTI Grantmaking Findings,” A Global Gaze: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Grantmaking in the Global South and East 2010. (New York: FLGBTQI, 2011)

ⁱⁱ Ibid.